

Image
3
SEPT
\$2.50
\$3.50
CANADA

THE DEADLY DUO™



image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY** **DUO**™

JEFF MARIOTTE
Writer

JOHN CLEARY
Penciller • Inker

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
Letterer

COMICOLOR
CLIFF VANMETER, KURT HOFF
Colors

ABEL MOUTON
Cover Color

ERIK LARSEN
Creator • Editor

GARRETT CHIN
Asst. to the Chief Executive

JOSH EICHORN
Drug-Addicted, Bloated, Elvis Impersonator

IMAGE COMICS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
LARRY MARDER
DIR. OF SALES & MARKETING
BEAU SMITH

ART DIRECTOR:
DOUG GRIFFITH
ASST. TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM
DISTRIBUTION:
GERMAINE ZACHARIAH

PUBLISHER:
TONY LOBITO
GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
KENNY FELIX
TRAFFIC:
RONNA COULTER
PRODUCTION:
TERESA CESPEDES
ASST. TO PUBLISHER:
SHAY CROCKER

THE DEADLY DUO #3 (of 4), September 1995. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics P.O. Box 25468 Anaheim, CA 92825. THE DEADLY DUO™, KILL-CAT™, KID AVENGER™ and all other related characters are Copyright© and Trademark Erik Larsen 1995. GRUNGER™ and GEN13™ are copyright© and trademark™ Aegis Entertainment, Inc. dba Wildstorm Productions, 1995. All villains © and ™ copyright and trademark their respective creators 1995. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Erik Larsen. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials

Printed in Canada



HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT

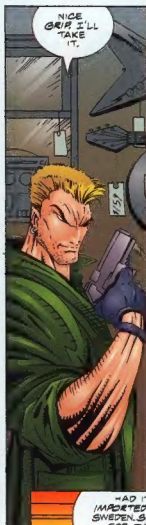




HERE'S MY HEAVIEST.
TAKES A LOT OF MAN TO
HANDLE A GUN LIKE
THIS.

SOLD.
WHAT ELSE
YA GOT?

HANDS
ON THE RACK
THERE.



NICE
GRIP, I'LL
TAKE
IT.



CAN'T
GO WRONG
WITH PUMP-
ACTION.



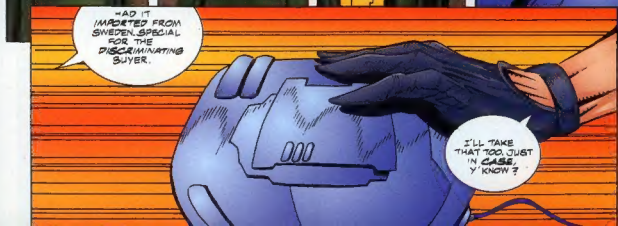
FULLY
AUTO,
SWEET.

RING
ME UP,
PARD.



HOLD ON,
WHAT'S THIS
THING?

WHAT'S IT
LOOK LIKE?
IT'S THE WORLD'S
FINEST TOASTER.
ONLY TWO
HUNDRED BUCKS.



HAD IT
IMPORTED FROM
SWEDEN. SPECIAL
FOR THE
DISCRIMINATING
BUYER.

I'LL TAKE
THAT TOO, JUST
IN CASE,
Y'KNOW?

DETROIT
FIRST NATIONAL
BANK

★70's-R-US★

THIS IS
GREAT! MONEY
IN MY POCKET
AND A WHOLE
STORE FULL OF
'70S HIGH
STYLE.

SO MANY
FABRICS TO CHOOSE
FROM! POLYESTER,
COTTON-POLLY, DOUBLE-
KNIT, LYCRA™...

THIS IS
IT! IT
SCREAMS
MARK
OSBORN!

LOOK OUT,
WORLD! I'M
STEPPIN'
OUT!

BANK

WAIT 'TIL
KILL-CAT
GETS A
LOAD OF
THIS!

HE'LL
PANIC!



AWRIGHT,
PEOPLE: THIS
IS A...

...AWW,
DO I EVEN
HAVE TA SAY
IT?

CAREFUL!
HE'S ARMED--
AND THEN
SOME!





MEANWHILE...

"THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! LOOK AT ALL THIS DOUGH! WITH THIS KIND OF MONEY..."

"I JUST WANT TO WARN YOU, I GET VERY CLAUSTROPHOBIC, MISTER--"

"JUST CALL ME NO-NAME, BUT NOT FOR LONG! AS I WAS SAYIN' BEFORE YOU STEPPED ON MY SOLILOQUY, WITH THIS KIND OF LOOT I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD ONE OF THOSE HIGH-PRICED SUPER-VILLAIN CONSULTANTS."

"THEN I'LL HAVE A COOL COSTUME, AND A NAME THAT STRIKES FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF INNOCENTS EVERYWHERE!"

"MAYBE EVEN A GREAT GIMMICK, LIKE OCTOPUS ARMS OR LOBSTER CLAWS AND A REALLY ENORMOUS GUN. AND... AND I'M GETTIN' KINDA

"GOOD THING I BROUGHT THIS."

ARE YOU NUTS?
KID, THAT WASN'T JUST
ANY TOASTER! THAT WAS
AN EXPERIMENTAL MANDELBROT
TOASTER I SPENT MILLIONS
DEVELOPING. IT'S THE FIRST
PRACTICAL APPLICATION
OF STRING THEORY AND
SYMMETRICAL PHYSICS.

OOPS.

USING STRING
THEORY--THE IDEA
THAT EVERYTHING IN
THE UNIVERSE IS
CONNECTED BY SUPERSTRINGS
--ANYBODY CAN BE
INSTANTLY TELEPORTED
FROM ANYWHERE!

OH
MY.

AND APPLYING
THE SYMMETRY THEORY
RESPONSIBLE FOR
FRACTALS, IT CAN
MAKE A PERFECT
ENGLISH MUFFIN
EVERY TIME!

WE HAVE
TO GET THAT
TOASTER BACK,
KID.

SORRY, KILL-
CAT. I DIDN'T KNOW
IT WAS SO
IMPORTANT.

WHAT
YOU DON'T
KNOW, KID,
BORDERS
ON THE
INFINITE.

HOW'S
THIS DANCED
TH'NG WORK,
ANYWAY?



JING
XIANG!



WHA?

ONE WRONG
MOVE AND BRADY
GETS "I", PAL!



HELP!

DENS?



WONDER
IF THIS
"RETURN"
BUTTON DOES
ANYTHING.



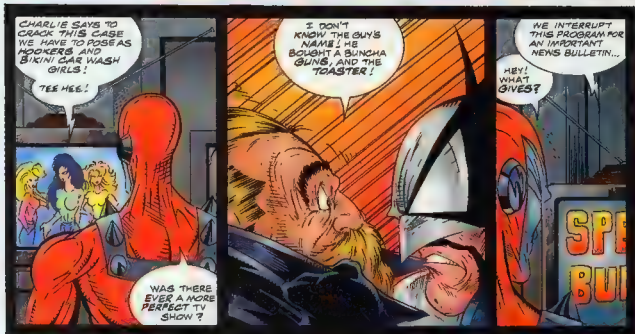
IT
WORKED!
HE'S
GONE!

THAT'S
SOME TOASTER!
WONDER IF I
CAN CHOOSE
WHO TO BRING
HERE...





YOU SOLD THE TOASTER KID AVENGER BROUGHT IN HERE, PAL, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO BOUGHT IT!



CHARLIE SAYS TO CRACK THIS CASE WE HAVE TO POSE AS HOOKERS AND BIKINI BAR WASH GIRLS!

TEE HEE!

I DON'T KNOW THE GUY'S NAME! HE BOUGHT A BUNCH A GUNS, AND THE TOASTER!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR AN IMPORTANT NEWS BULLETIN...

HEY! WHAT GIVES?

WAS THERE EVER A MORE PERFECT TV SHOW?

SPE
BUL



... A HOSTAGE SITUATION WAS ERUPTED AT THE DETROIT FIRST NATIONAL BANK. AN UNNAMED CRIMINAL HAS TAKEN A HOSTAGE, IDENTIFIED AS MARCIA BRADY, INTO THE BANK'S VAULT...

THAT'S THE GUY! AND HE'S GOT MARCIA BRADY!



WE'VE
GOT TO
RESCUE
HER!

AS LUCK
WOULD HAVE IT,
SHE'S BEING HELD
BY THE GUY WHO
HAS MY TOASTER



THAT'S IT, KILL-
CAT--IT'S MY CALLING.
THE BRADY BUNCH WAS
ONE OF MY FAVORITE
SHOWS! I MUST HAVE
BEEN DESTINEY THAT
HAD ME LAND IN THIS
DECAD-- I'M DESTINED
TO SAVE MARCIA BRADY
AND KEEP THE BRADY
BUNCH INTACT!

THAT'S NOT REALLY
MARCIA BRADY, KID, MARCIA
BRADY WAS A TV CHARACTER,
PLAYED BY AN ACTRESS...

SURE, MAUREEN
MCCORMICK! BUT WHAT
IF THAT WAS JUST A
SMOKE SCREEN? THOSE
WERE THE WATERSGATE
DAYS-- WHAT IF SHE WAS
INVOLVED, AND THE WHOLE
MAUREEN MCCORMICK
IDENTITY WAS A COVER,
LIKE DEEP THROAT OR
SOMETHING?

I THINK
YOU'RE OVER
THE DEEP END,
KID.



BUT LET'S
GO GET THAT
TOASTER, AND
YOU CAN FIND
OUT FOR
YOURSELF.

I'M WITH
YOU, KILL-CAT.
I KNOW I'VE
SEEN THAT BANK
SOMEWHERE...



SLURP

WHY HAVE
I BEEN BROUGHT
HERE?

LISTEN UP,
ALL OF YOU: THIS
IS THE GREATEST
COLLECTION OF SUPER-
VILLAINS EVER ASSEMBLED.
TOGETHER WE CAN
RULE THE WORLD...

... IF WE
CAN ALL JUST
GET ALONG!

I DON'T
GET THIS
WHOLE
DEAL!

HOW ABOUT
YOU, SLAB? HAVE
YOU THE FOGGIEST
NOTION AS TO HOW
WE GOT HERE?

GOOD
TOAST.

WHAT I
WANNA KNOW
IS WHY WE'RE
HERE.

I SUSPECT
IT HAS SOMETHING
TO DO WITH THAT
TEASSTER.

THE
TEASSTER? UNLIKELY AS IT
SOUNDS, I BELIEVE
OUR GROVELLY
FRIEND MAY BE
IN TO SOMETHING
THERE.

I WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW
THE SAME THING:
GENE'S KAHN
RECOGNIZES
NONE OF YOU...

...AND THESE
WORDS FEEL
ODD IN MY
MOUTH.

SO WHAT
YA WANT IS FOR
ME TO KILL
SOMEONE? THAT'LL BE A
STRETCH.

I CAN
PROMISE THAT
YOU WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST
HONORS THE
ITALIAN PEOPLE
CAN BESTOW,
WHEN MUSSOLINI
IS IN CHARGE.

I MIGHT
HAVE SOME
BAD NEWS
FOR YOU,
BUDDY.





ARE YOU
REALLY THE
INFAMOUS
BILLY THE
KID?

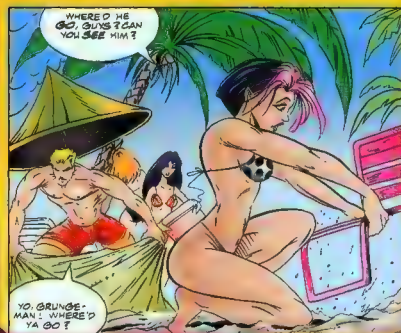
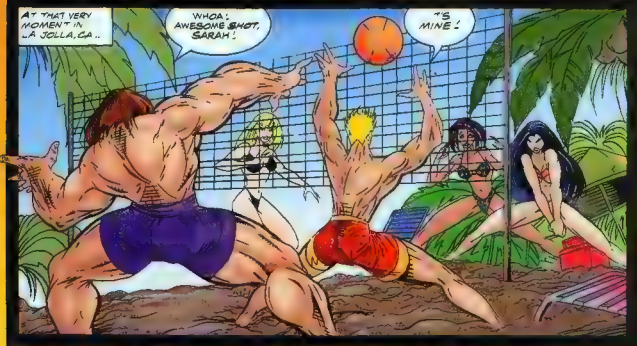
DON'T CROWD
ME, SMOKESTACK.
I AIN'T SHOT
ANYONE IN HOURS
AND I'M GETTIN' ALL
TWITCHY-LIKE.

VORTX! MAKO!
ABSORBING JUNIOR!
DECLINE! I'D LIKE
TO WELCOME YOU
GUYS TO MY LITTLE
SUPER-VILLAIN
HALL OF FAME!

NOW'S MY
CHANCE TO
SEE HOW THIS
THING WORKS.
WHAT IF I TURN
THIS KNOB, AND
PUSH THIS...

... BUTTON ?

POP!





GET OFFA
MY FOOT,
PUNK!

SORRY,
DUDE, I'M JUST
HAVING THIS
GNARLY DREAM
ALL OF
SUDDEN...

IT'S NO
DREAM, GRUNGE.
YOU'RE HERE...
AND YOU'RE
EVEN CUTER IN
PERSON!



IF THIS
ISN'T A DREAM,
THEN YOU GUYS
ARE SUPER-
VILLAINS...

...AND I'M IN
THE WRONG PLACE
BIG-TIME!

HRUNK!

THAT'S
GONNA COST
YOU, KID.

WHAM!

NOBODY
SLUGS OVERT-KILL
AND GETS AWAY
WITH IT!

OOOF!

VAULT
DOOR...

...STEE..
ALLOY...

...HAY
COOL!

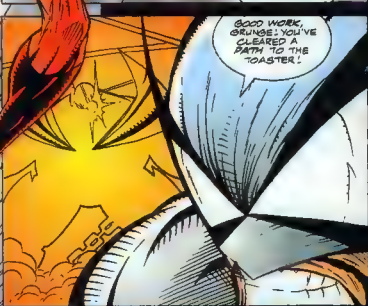


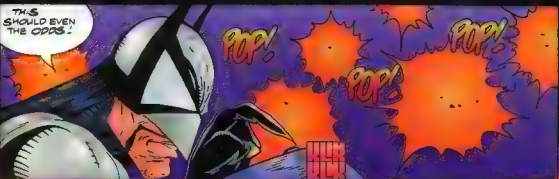


COMABUNGA,
DUDES! LET'S
GO VILLAIN-
SURFIN'!

LOOKIT
'EM ALL!

MAYBE
YOU HAVEN'T
HEARD, SON.
BUT FIGHTING
CRIME IS
SERIOUS
BUSINESS!



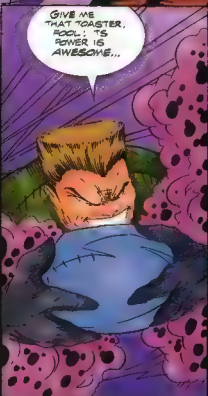


THIS
SHOULD EVEN
THE ODDS!



SAY,
THIS IS
KIND OF FUN,
GRUNGE!

YEAH,
KICKIN' VILLAIN BUTT
RULES, DOESN'T
IT?



GIVE ME
THAT TOASTER,
FOOL! TS
POWER IS
AWESOME...



... AS MINE
W'LL BE WHEN
I ABSORB
IT...

... HEY -
SOMETHING'S
WRONG --



POP!

I GUESS
ABSORBING JUNIOR
DOESN'T ABSORB
POWER FROM
INANIMATE OBJECTS
SO WELL.

I THINK
THERE'S ENOUGH
JUICE LEFT IN
THIS THING TO
GET YOU HOME,
GRUNGE.

MIGHT BE
A LONG TRIP,
GRUNGE WANT
SOME
COMPANY?

UHH, I'LL
BE FINE,
THANKS.

THAT'S
IT! THIS
TOASTER'S
HISTORY.

BUT I
SENT HIM BACK
WITHIN
SECONDS OF
WHEN HE
LEFT.

HOLY
CONTINUITY
SAVER, KILL-
CAT!

BUT
THERE'S
ONE MORE
PIECE OF
BUSINESS...

ARE YOU
REALLY MARCIA
BRADY?

YOU
WANNA SEE
MY DRIVER'S
LICENSE?

WHAT WAS
ANN B. DAVIS'S
CHARACTER'S
BOYFRIEND'S
NAME? HOW LONG
WERE CONDY'S
PISTOLS? DID
BOBBY EVER
SMOKE? HOW
OLD WAS PETER
WHEN HIS VOICE
CHANGED?

IF HE
REMEMBERS
ANY OF THIS,
HE'LL THINK IT
WAS ALL A
DREAM.

YOU SURE
THAT TOASTERS
BROKEN, KILL-
CAT?

KILL-CAT!

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Hey Erik,

I knew you wouldn't let me down. Despite my somewhat lukewarm reception of the first issue of *Deadly Duo*, I had high expectations of the second issue. And you delivered.

This issue was much funnier, and whatever was missing from the first issue, it was here in the second. This issue brought back all the fun and high energy that was present in the first mini-series.

The Kid thinking Kill-Cat was gay was great. It reminded me the *Seinfeld* episode where a reporter thinks he and George are gay. "Not that there's anything wrong with that." is that where you got the idea for this bit? At any rate stuff like that is what makes this book so cool. I really enjoyed the appearances by the Dragon and Freak Force. (I can't believe they're gone, sniff.)

By the way. One thing. WERE YOU KIDDING ABOUT THE DRAGON NEVER FINDING OUT HIS PAST????? You know! When the kid says sorry about the Dragon never finding out where he came from. You better be kidding. I'm not saying I want to find out all about the Dragon right away. I'd rather wait quite a while before we find out anything about his past. But I definitely want to find out eventually. Whew. Just had to get that off my chest.

Anyway, see you next month! BYE!

Michael Hoover

Reno, NV

Either the Dragon does find out but doesn't let on to the general population, furthering the myth, or maybe the reader finds out but the Dragon doesn't or any other combination (and that includes nobody finding out).

The second issue was originally supposed to be the final issue of the previous mini-series and was written quite a while ago. When I saw the episode of *Seinfeld* you mentioned, I kicked myself for not getting the issue out sooner! Any similarities were completely coincidental.

Dear Erik & John,

One word to begin—*Hysterical!* The second issue of DD II was so funny I laughed out loud several times! The people sitting next to me at work during lunch thought I was nuts or something. Laff-a-lot was priceless. Now there's a new twist on the adversarial relationship between the crime fighter and his nemesis! I enjoyed this issue so much, I sort of wish that it had been #1 instead of #2!! Erik, the scripting is nothing short of comedic genius. "Oh yuck! Get away from me! I'm not that kind of guy!" A scenic gem. Thanks for brightening up my day, sir!

Mr. Cleary, pay no attention to all of the predictable and inevitable comparisons of your art to the Toddster. So what if it's reminiscent somewhat of Mr. McFarlane's, I think it's great, and so does Erik, or he wouldn't have chosen you for this killer mini (damn) series. Your version of the Dragon was excellent! Not to mention what I think has to be the most sizzling and sexiest Dart that I have ever seen. Mmph, yeah baby! Down boy! Down I say!

Oh and what did I think of Neutron Bob? I give him a 6 out of 10 with points off for an embarrassing choice

of attire. Bring back Laff-a-lot!! He was great! Once again, all hail the truly mighty Highbrow!

Matt Nickle

Hermosa Beach, CA

As I've said before, that issue was intended to be the final issue of the previous mini-series. I liked it so much that I concocted an entirely new mini-series just so I could have it see print.

Dear Erik,

And Kill-Cat went through all that trouble just to assure his partner in the business of crime-fighting, Kid Avenger, of the fact that he by no means fancies or ever thought of fancying men and strictly sees himself as a heterosexual worshipper of the female form? Considering the damage his quest to convince his out-of-this-time partner has brought, please remind me to always take Kill-Cat's word for it, might I coincidentally stumble into him and have an argument about some silly, probably moot point in our discussion!

Seriously, *Deadly Duo* #2 continue in a fashion much like the previous issue of this and the first mini-series have established— that of pure entertainment and hilarious humor. With so light-hearted an atmosphere, it hardly made any significant difference whether this issue's tale had been the first mini-series' fourth and final issue or not. Last issue bestowed upon the readers a pretty much self-contained story, and the tale at hand here is one as well. As always with stories like that, their actual position in the current continuity of a given book matters little in the end, especially when it concerns a strongly humor-oriented series of mini-series, like this one.

As for the issue's story itself, as I commented above, I thought it was a bit of an overkill to have Kill-Cat go to such lengths to prove that he fancies women over men. Although the subject of an individual's sexual preferences has received something close to over-exposure in comic books lately, your take on the topic was rather fresh in that it did not try to bring across a social statement of sorts. On the other hand, to create a complete twenty-two page story around that one single element, does stretch it a little thin. I would have preferred a different catalyst that kept the plot moving, while the matter of Kill-Cat's preferences was used solely as comic relief—a running gag throughout the story without being its only driving force in the first place.

Art-wise, I have been giving John Cleary's work a second look, and I must admit that I found this issue's artwork to be more open and accessible than was the case last issue. Mostly, this is because of the improved layouts, but the lighter and brighter colors helped a bit in that department as well. My feelings about the McFarlaneesque style haven't changed, though. Your argument about Todd having asked John to work on same Spawn related books won't hold in my opinion. Of course Todd was encouraging John's work, since John was working for him on something which has become famous because of Todd has been putting out, so I wouldn't have any objections about that. But to have John do something that has nothing to do with Spawn or Todd, does seem a little odd to me. A style like his truly is less at home on *Deadly Duo* than on say, *Spawn* or *Angela* or whatever.

Oh well, that's enough about that already. I enjoyed

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

the issue, got some great laughs out of it, and I'm looking forward to the next two issues already.

See you then.

Beemer

The Netherlands, Europe

Fans reactions to Mr. Cleary's artwork seem to run either hot or cold with not much in between. Those that love it, can't get enough and those that don't— can't stand it. I don't think that's a bad thing. Many of the most highly acclaimed artists in the field get similar reactions.

Dear Kitty Letters,

Introduction: I'd like to warn everyone who will (or won't, as the case may be) read this that it is not exactly the letter of praise that you all expect from me. Sorry.

Inside (Art): If there's one thing that I hate more than a copy-cat, it's a copy-cat that does it poorly. Mr. Cleary, if you are going to draw with a McFarlanesque style, at least do it well. I mean, Todd draws using heavy blacks, and, if you look closely, very little exaggerating lines. Mr. Cleary uses too many exaggerating lines and not enough blacks. McFarlane's art never looked like this. Not even now, when he gets "help" from Greg Capullo, does Mr. Cleary's work come even close to Todd's. Before I finish, I would like to emphasize that this is not a personal attack on any of the above artists.

Inside (Story): It's a very good thing Mr. Larsen did all the writing chores for this issue. The humor in this issue is apparent and very funny. It even lightened the continuity of all Highbrow books. Unfortunately, the art (see above) took away from the accomplishments of the story.

Overall: I hate to do this, but it's a five out of ten. I was thinking that if Andy Smith had drawn this, it may have been an 8 or higher. Oh well.

Conclusion: The pin-up with the DD and SD was great! That is the best I've ever seen anyone besides Mr. Larsen draw the Dragon. Kudos to Mr. Smith and Mr. Elliot. Anyway, back to the issue at hand, better luck next time.

Sorry. Again.

MAC

Wyckoff, NJ

See what I mean?

To Erik & Deadly Duo Crew,

Congrats to all who made Deadly Duo #2 possible. The same humor, wit, and action filled the issue from cover to cover. The art still had it's edge and the story had it's usual jokes and wackiness. I have two complaints about the book though. The first complaint is for the letters dept. Why the hell didn't you print my letter?!?! How am I suppose to be one of Highbrow's letter-hacks if my letter does not get printed? I hope that you print this one though and if you do print it all will be forgiven. Please, Please, Please, print this letter please!!!

Now on to the next complaint. This one is directed to you Mr. Larsen. What is the point of having Neutron Bob in this issue? All he does is fight Dragon, Kill-Cat, and the Kid Avenger. He also loses for that matter.

Please tell me why you put in the fight with Bob and not a face off between Kill-Cat and Dart.

Well, that does it for the complaints to an otherwise great book. The good points of this book was the appearance of Freak Force. Great to see them again and mighty happy considering that their book was cancelled. The opening sequence with Laff-A-Lot was a scream. It could only happen in a Highbrow book when a gay clown/super villain drugs the hero into finding him attractive and living the rest of their lives in sexual bliss. Another good point of the book was when KC actually beat Bob and not be made the fool like in previous issues. He really kicks butt, when he is not getting the crap beaten out of him that is.

In all honesty this was not as good that I thought it would be, but it still gave me the usual aftertaste: laughter, laughter, and more laughter!!! Well thanks for listening. Later.

Jericho Vilar

Glendale, CA

Not every person who writes into these comics gets every letter printed. Even Olav and Augie have sent in letters that didn't see print!

As for Neutron Bob— he was on a rampage— somebody had to stop him! Besides, if it wasn't for Bob, chances are KC wouldn't have found Dart at all! And, uh, the Kid Avenger beat Bob not Kill-Cat. KC still looked like a fool.

Dear Mr. Larsen,

I am 30 years young! Sergeant first class of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. A friend of mine introduced me to comics, since I already liked science-fiction and fantasy the step to comics was not that big. I started out reading comics with heroes from my own childhood like Batman, Green Lantern and so on. Then my friend introduced me to Spawn, Violator, and Angela, I like them a lot. Liking Spawn I was curious when I saw DD #1 with Spawn on the cover.

I bought it, read it, and was hooked! I immediately bought the first mini-series too. The hilarious humor and the great action is the best combination ever! My favorite moment is Kill-Cat fighting Fusion while Kid is too drunk to fight and throwing up in the middle of it all, Great! (Never saw Robin do this!)

As a mature reader I prove that comics are fun at any age. There is one thing that could spoil the fun though, and that is you stopping DD. Please make this a on going series. If not I'll convince my superiors to take over the U.S.A. and force you to do it! (Sorry, got carried away there for a moment!)

One question: Will violator ever appear in the Deadly Duo? Since Kill-Cat can't ever hope to love Dart and have her loving him back, why don't you introduce him to Angela, a real angel don't you say?

Best wishes and keep on writing (or else...).

Herman Eilering

The Netherlands

Maintaining a high level of hilarity is a tough one, Herman. I'd prefer to keep the Deadly Duo fresh as an occasional mini-series than stale as an ongoing one.

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Dear K. Letters,

Here we go again, Erik! Another controversial issue, in my opinion anyway. And I can justify my claim very simply.

I'll tell you the truth people. When I was reading *THE DEADLY DUO* #2, I didn't think I was reading about two super heroes from the almighty Highbrow, I thought I was reading "THE DEGRASSI HIGH" episodes, or something!

I mean, for goodness sake, about half of the entire issue focused on Kill-Cat's fanatical obsession with Dart and his proving to Kid that he's not gay! We already know he was obsessed with Dart and we already know he wasn't gay (since issue #1 of the first mini-series)!

Well, to be really honest, the issue was pretty hilarious with that slapstick humor that we can always rely on in DD. A disturbing revelation I discovered after reading the issue though, is that there are people out there that would fly all the way from Detroit to Chicago just to prove to someone that they aren't gay! That, in itself, I do find a little humorous!

But, in my case, you know how to tell a good story well enough so that the controversial subject is there but it's complimentary comic drama overshadows it just enough as to make it look real. (Am I the only one that understood that?)

Oh, yahl! And John's pencils look swell, too!

Neal Adams

(I read 'em, not draw 'em)

Markham, Ontario, CANADA

Thanks, Neal.

Yo Erik,

"Get your own girl!" I love it when an issue of DD ends with Kill-Cat beating up the Kid Avenger. You've admitted yourself that the first issue wasn't...um... as good as the old stuff (nice enough?), but this one DEFINITELY, POSITIVELY, ABSOLUTELY makes up for it BIG TIME! Y'hear? That's by far the best parody on Batman, heck, on any comic book I've ever seen in my life. Bringing in this Laff-A-Lot guy was pure genius. Is remember how the jokes used to call Batman "Darling in The Dark Night Returns"...and now THIS. Just Hilarious. And then KC [any connection to yellow truck gimmick?] falls in love with the Kid Avenger..."Every sidekick's nightmare" indeed, as a certain snot knows all too well. Erik, how are you ever gonna top this one? No chance in hell! You're done! Could just as well kill yourself!

The only problem might be that the whole thing was n't necessarily "politically correct" (don't even get me started about that crap)... some people might get pretty pissed off about this one. Yeah, frag 'em if they can't take a joke, and please don't fill the next letters page with angry letters from "concerned gay lobbies" or whatever. As Kill-Cat said: "To each their own" Hope they got the message. By the way, the purpose of that scene was a bit obvious, but maybe it was necessary (or were you just scared?)

Another thing: I gave the artwork a second chance as you asked us to, and I think it's a pity that a guy that's obviously talented ties himself down like that. Get a clue. Anyway, as I said, great one, and YES I WANT

AN ONGOING! AS IN RIGHT NOW! (Yeah, I love them capital letters)

Anyway, cheers and Marvel sucks and Image rules.

Mike Meier

Switzerland

I haven't received a single letter from "concerned gay lobbies". Either they don't read the books in the first place or it didn't offend them.

In all honesty, I don't think that there is that much to get offended by. While Kill-Cat was definitely defensive and wanted to reassure the Kid that he wasn't coming on to him, there wasn't an anti-gay stance presented.

Don't look for an ongoing series any time soon. I don't have the time or energy to keep up this kind of brutal schedule. I'll be pretty much confining myself to the Savage Dragon for now. Sorry.

Dear Mr. Larsen,

When you screw up, I'm not afraid to write in and nit-pick at you. However, I'm also more than willing to compliment you too. I hope you keep this in mind as I tell you what I thought about *Deadly Duo* (II) #2. I don't know if you want to hear this but...I absolutely loved it! My only gripe is that this story could've/ should've lasted more than twenty-two pages. I am honestly saddened that Kill-Cat's delusional attitude toward his and Dart's relationship is now over [or is it?].

Since this issue was so nearly flawless, I have little other than praise to say about it. So to fill up some more space, I have a few questions that I've been meaning to fire at you. Mostly concerning the "rules" of your comic convention appearances. I've never gone to one before, mostly due to the fact that I don't want to go alone. However I've wanted to go so strongly that I think I'll go next year with or without a convention companion.

Anyway, I have a ton of Larsen books that I'd love to get signed (just thinking about it makes me feel like a giddy fanboy), but I don't want to be rude by demanding too much of you. Can you give me some simple con etiquette so you don't remember me as that greedy jerk who held up the line asking for autographs, sketch, conversation, et cetera?

Thanks again and once again I loved this issue of *Deadly Duo*! I just hope my gut doesn't have a blow out!

Christopher Roesler

Sparks, NV

Everybody deals with conventions differently, Chris. Some limit the number of signatures, some don't. Some do sketches for cash, some do them for free, some don't sketch at all.

Generally, I sign every book a fan brings with them and I try and do quick sketches for free. If the crowd is too big I may have to send a fan back in line if he's got too many books to sign (but first I'll sign 20 or so). Also, if the lines are too long I may have to stop doing sketches so I can keep the line moving. If I'm particularly burned out after a long day I'll probably stop drawing too.

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Hey Erik,

I knew you wouldn't let me down. Despite my somewhat lukewarm reception of the first issue of *Deadly Duo*, I had high expectations of the second issue. And you delivered.

This issue was much funnier, and whatever was missing from the first issue, it was here in the second. This issue brought back all the fun and high energy that was present in the first mini-series.

The Kid thinking Kill-Cat was gay was great. It reminded me the *Seinfeld* episode where a reporter thinks he and George are gay. "Not that there's anything wrong with that." Is that where you got the idea for this bit? At any rate stuff like that is what makes this book so cool. I really enjoyed the appearances by the Dragon and Freak Force. (I can't believe they're gone, sniff.)

By the way. One thing. WERE YOU KIDDING ABOUT THE DRAGON NEVER FINDING OUT HIS PAST????? You know! When the kid says sorry about the Dragon never finding out where he came from. You better be kidding. I'm not saying I want to find out all about the Dragon right away. I'd rather wait quite a while before we find out anything about his past. But I definitely want to find out eventually. whew. Just had to get that off my chest.

Anyway, see you next month! BYE!
Michael Hoover
Reno, NV

Either the Dragon does find out but doesn't let on to the general population, furthering the myth, or maybe the reader finds out but the Dragon doesn't or any other combination (and that includes nobody finding out).

The second issue was originally supposed to be the final issue of the previous mini-series and was written quite a while ago. When I saw the episode of *Seinfeld* you mentioned, I kicked myself for not getting the issue out sooner! Any similarities were completely coincidental.

Dear Erik & John,

One word to begin—*Hysterical*! The second issue of *DD II* was so funny I laughed out loud several times! The people sitting next to me at work during lunch thought I was nuts or something. Laff-a-lot was priceless. Now there's a new twist on the adversarial relationship between the crime fighter and his nemesis! I enjoyed this issue so much, I sort of wish that it had been #1 instead of #2!! Erik, the scripting is nothing short of comedic genius. "Oh yuck! Get away from me! I'm not that kind of guy!" A scenic gem. Thanks for brightening up my day, sir!

Mr. Cleary, pay no attention to all of the predictable and inevitable comparisons of your art to the Toddster. So what if it's reminiscent somewhat of Mr. McFarlane's, I think it's great, and so does Erik, or he wouldn't have chosen you for this killer mini (damn) series. Your version of the Dragon was excellent! Not to mention what I think has to be the most sizzling and sexiest Dart that I have ever seen. Mmph, yeah baby! Down boy! Down I say!

Oh and what did I think of Neutron Bob? I give him a 6 out of 10 with points off for an embarrassing choice

of attire. Bring back Laff-a-Lot!! He was great! Once again, all hail the truly mighty Highbrow!

Matt Nickle

Hermosa Beach, CA

As I've said before, that issue was intended to be the final issue of the previous mini-series. I liked it so much that I concocted an entirely new mini-series just so I could have it see print.

Dear Erik,

And Kill-Cat went through all that trouble just to assure his partner in the business of crime-fighting, Kid Avenger, of the fact that he by no means fancies or ever thought of fancying men and strictly sees himself as a heterosexual worshipper of the female form? Considering the damage his quest to convince his out-of-this-time partner has brought, please remind me to always take Kill-Cat's word for it, might I coincidentally stumble into him and have an argument about some silly, probably moot point in our discussion!

Seriously, *Deadly Duo* #2 continue in a fashion much like the previous issue of this and the first mini-series have established—that of pure entertainment and hilarious humor. With so light-hearted an atmosphere, it hardly made any significant difference whether this issue's tale had been the first mini-series' fourth and final issue or not. Last issue bestowed upon the readers a pretty much self-contained story, and the tale at hand here is one as well. As always with stories like that, their actual position in the current continuity of a given book matters little in the end, especially when it concerns a strongly humor-oriented series of mini-series, like this one.

As for the issue's story itself, as I commented above, I thought it was a bit of an overkill to have Kill-Cat go to such lengths to prove that he fancies women over men. Although the subject of an individual's sexual preferences has received something close to over-exposure in comic books lately, your take on the topic was rather fresh in that it did not try to bring across a social statement of sorts. On the other hand, to create a complete twenty-two page story around that one single element, does stretch it a little thin. I would have preferred a different catalyst that kept the plot moving, while the matter of Kill-Cat's preferences was used solely as comic relief—a running gag throughout the story without being its only driving force in the first place.

Art-wise, I have been giving John Cleary's work a second look, and I must admit that I found this issue's artwork to be more open and accessible than was the case last issue. Mostly, this is because of the improved layouts, but the lighter and brighter colors helped a bit in that department as well. My feelings about the McFarlane-esque style haven't changed, though. Your argument about Todd having asked John to work on some *Spawn* related books won't hold in my opinion. Of course Todd was encouraging John's work, since John was working for him on something which has become famous because of Todd has been putting out, so I wouldn't have any objections about that. But to have John do something that has nothing to do with *Spawn* or Todd, does seem a little odd to me. A style like his truly is less at home on *Deadly Duo* than on say, *Spawn* or *Angela* or whatever.

Oh well, that's enough about that already. I enjoyed